

Mr. Vice President, whom I happen to like very much, convening is not enough.

It is time for us to turn the talking points associated with racism into action items, and we have done much of that here on the Hill. But there is one thing that we need to do that we have not done in this country that goes back to 1619, and that is, we have not reconciled. We have not reconciled the differences that we have, the racial differences. It is time for reconciliation.

To turn this talking point into an action item, Mr. Vice President, I beg that you would establish a department of reconciliation with a secretary of reconciliation who wakes up every morning with the job of eliminating invidious discrimination in all of its forms in this country.

It is time for us to deal forthrightly, to deal in an open and notorious manner, with racism and invidious discrimination in this country in all of its various forms.

It is time, Mr. Vice President. You are the man. You are the man in the sense that you are the man running for President as the nominee of the Democratic Party. In that sense, you are the person to be more appropriate who can make this happen.

We saw a President declare a war on poverty, President Johnson. It is time to declare a war on racism. It is time to end what we are seeing occurring almost on a weekly basis in this country to African Americans, minorities, and women. It is time to have a department of reconciliation.

To this end, I will send the Vice President a letter asking him to consider a department of reconciliation. To talk about it is not enough. We have to have the action item.

There are many other things that can be done. I don't oppose a task force. I don't oppose opportunities to look at other forms of reconciliation. But a department of reconciliation is the means by which we can formalize and actualize reconciliation in this country.

It won't be easy, and it won't happen right away, which is why we need the department of reconciliation. Call it anything that you want, as long as it is about reconciliation.

I will contact you, Mr. President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PUTTING AN END TO POLITICAL ROBOCALLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we are in the height of robocall season, and the American people are beyond fed up.

The recent 6-3 ruling by the Supreme Court that upholds a Federal ban on

robocalls warrants a serious conversation that is long overdue.

Under the 1991 Telephone Consumer Protection Act, TCPA, prerecorded voice messages and the use of automatic dialing systems were effectively banned. The prevailing argument was that the American people would no longer face intrusive nuisances that we have now come to recognize as robocalls.

In retrospect, the TCPA was a novel endeavor, but the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 introduced setbacks that compromised the progress that had been achieved in the fight against robocalls. Debt collectors received a special carve-out that allowed them to place automatic calls to Americans who owed money to the Federal Government.

Though the Supreme Court eliminated this carve-out on the basis that it was a violation of the First Amendment, bountiful opportunities to enact meaningful reform remain on the horizon.

Unwanted robocalls have become the bane of many, and with phones ringing off the hook in households across the country, Americans are wondering when they will get a reprieve from these nuisances. Imagine you are sitting down for dinner with your family, and within seconds of the meal starting, your phone begins ringing. It is yet another robocall.

Now, magnify the scene to households across the country. It is an enraging scenario that all of us have been affected by, but I have a blueprint that can set things right.

Since 2005, I have introduced the Robo Calls Off Phones Act, legislation that directs the FTC to revise its regulation for the National Do Not Call Registry and allows politically oriented messages to be added to that list.

In fact, the genesis for this legislation came from my constituents. Many were livid that they had been bombarded with unwanted calls during the 2004 election year. They demanded that Congress act to end these nuisances, and I took it upon myself to carry the mantle.

Ever since I have reintroduced this legislation to address the cyclical issue, and I remain adamant that Congress must address this immediately. For years, politicians in Washington have told their constituents that they would fight against robocalls. Now it is time to hold ourselves to account and be part of the solution.

H.R. 805, the bipartisan Robo COP Act, is the vessel by which we can achieve meaningful reform.

The simple truth is that no American is immune to receiving robocalls. It is becoming a nagging problem that has evolved to the point where we now believe it is commonplace to receive them at any point during the day.

The answer to this problem is right before our very eyes, and Congress finds itself in an opportune moment to enact meaningful reforms that have been overlooked for far too long.

RECOGNIZING THE DIOL FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Crow) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours of August 5, five Senegalese immigrants, including an infant and a toddler, died in an arson fire in their Denver home. The victims deserve to be recognized.

Djibril Diol, who was 30 years old, immigrated to the United States from Senegal 10 years ago to make a better life for himself and his family. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in civil engineering and was an outstanding student with a bright future ahead of him.

He was well loved by his family and friends. His brother described him as "a good person, a good worker, and a good Muslim." A coworker said that Djibril "was a way better man than I will ever be."

Djibril's wife, Adja, and 2-year-old daughter, Khadija, also died in the fire, as did Coumba Diol Hassan, Djibril's sister, and Hawa Beye, her 10-month-old son.

We don't know what motivated this attack, but it has deeply shaken our African immigrant community and left them feeling unsafe. While this was a tragic incident, and we mourn for the family, I want to emphasize the strength and resilience of our African immigrant community.

As a case in point, the African Leadership Group, ALG, a local nonprofit that provides a wide variety of vital services to our immigrant neighbors, has consoled and supported the Diol family and kept pressure on law enforcement to solve this horrific crime. Led by Papa Dia, who is a native of Senegal himself, I thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING STANLEY MARKETPLACE

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Stanley Marketplace, a community-focused urban market in Aurora, Colorado.

Located in northwest Aurora on the border of Denver's Central Park neighborhood, Stanley Marketplace is a community of businesses and people who believe in doing things differently—sustainably, creatively, and with more than the bottom line in mind.

The marketplace's 22-acre site was once the site of the Stanley Aviation factory. It is now a community gathering place, home to 50 independently owned Colorado businesses.

Today, the same innovative spirit that once filled Stanley's building has been harnessed to offer our community an urban marketplace featuring goods and services from local independent businesses.

The property includes a 30,000-square-foot sustainable greenhouse and an urban farm. Under construction is an inclusive playground where children of all abilities can play.